

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that causes pain, infection, disability, economic strain and even death, particularly among African Americans; and

WHEREAS, according to the Heart, Lung and Blood Institute of the National Institutes of Health, more than 4,000 African Americans have sickle cell disease in North Carolina, and more than 160,000 African Americans in the state have sickle cell trait, which means that they carry the gene for this condition; and

WHEREAS, no cure for this disease exists, though treatment is available to help those with sickle cell lead more productive and rewarding lives; and

WHEREAS, since 1973, the North Carolina Sickle Cell Syndrome Program has provided quality services throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, provision of services is a collaborative effort between agencies, health care providers, regional and community partners and the State Laboratory of Public Health; and

WHEREAS, services include screening of all newborns at birth, genetic counseling, service coordination, medical reimbursement and social support for affected persons; and

WHEREAS, support for research on the treatment and management of this disorder is vital to improving the health and quality of life of persons with sickle cell disease;

NOW, THEREFORE, I MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim September 2008, as "**SICKLE CELL AWARENESS MONTH**" in North Carolina and urge our citizens to recognize and support this observance.




MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-sixth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.